

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Based on past efforts (Copy Protect or whatever) that made it difficult or impossible to make a personal copy of a movie so protected, and on some machine/content combinations, IMPOSSIBLE to even view or use the content, although the movie makers had assured the public and the FCC that Copy Guard (or whatever) would NOT prevent personal use copying of enjoyment, I do not believe the movie makers, and I do not think the FCC should, either. Please REFUSE to approve the use of the "broadcast flag."

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

I have to presume it would, and think that the FCC should NOT agree to this technology for exactly this reason. It is close to unbelievable that the FCC would even consider "caving in" to content providers, at the expense of consumers who have invested \$billions in digital devices already. Unbelievable!

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Probably, old equipment would ignore the flag (unless the movie makers make it a negative "opt-in, where the movies, etc., could not be used on older equipment UNLESS the flag was present), it is very likely that the flag would interfere in the use of mixed old and new equipment, and thus the FCC should NOT approve the flag.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes, a broadcast flag requirement would limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options. It is easy to say this is not the intent, but the influence of manufacturers, with vested interests in creating even more costly equipment to replace today's devices, is so strong that I think the movie makers have been compromised, and I trust that the FCC has not. Additionally, the movie makers themselves will be potential customers for millions of dollars of new equipment, which the manufacturers may have promised will be given free or sold below cost to the movie makers, in return for creating this anti-consumer mess.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Based on past experiences with these "no additional cost" add-on requirements, such as the V-Chip, neither the FCC nor the movie makers, and most of all, the manufacturers, can possible believe that the additional costs will not be added to every device offered to consumers!

Other Comments:

Digital electronics will be the standard of the future; please do not throw wooden shoes into the machinery (the original meaning of "sabotage") by acquiescing to this terrible scheme to "protect" the creations of the few at the expense of the millions of consumers!